

KOPVAC SAGA #1

SECRET
WARS
MARVEL



ABNETT
SCHMIDT
PETER

GUARDIANS - DUTY ADVISORY

FOR THE DURATION OF THE VISIT FROM BARON SIMON WILLIAMS OF THE HOLY WOOD DOMAIN, THE FOLLOWING GUARDIANS WILL BE ON CALL AT ALL TIMES:



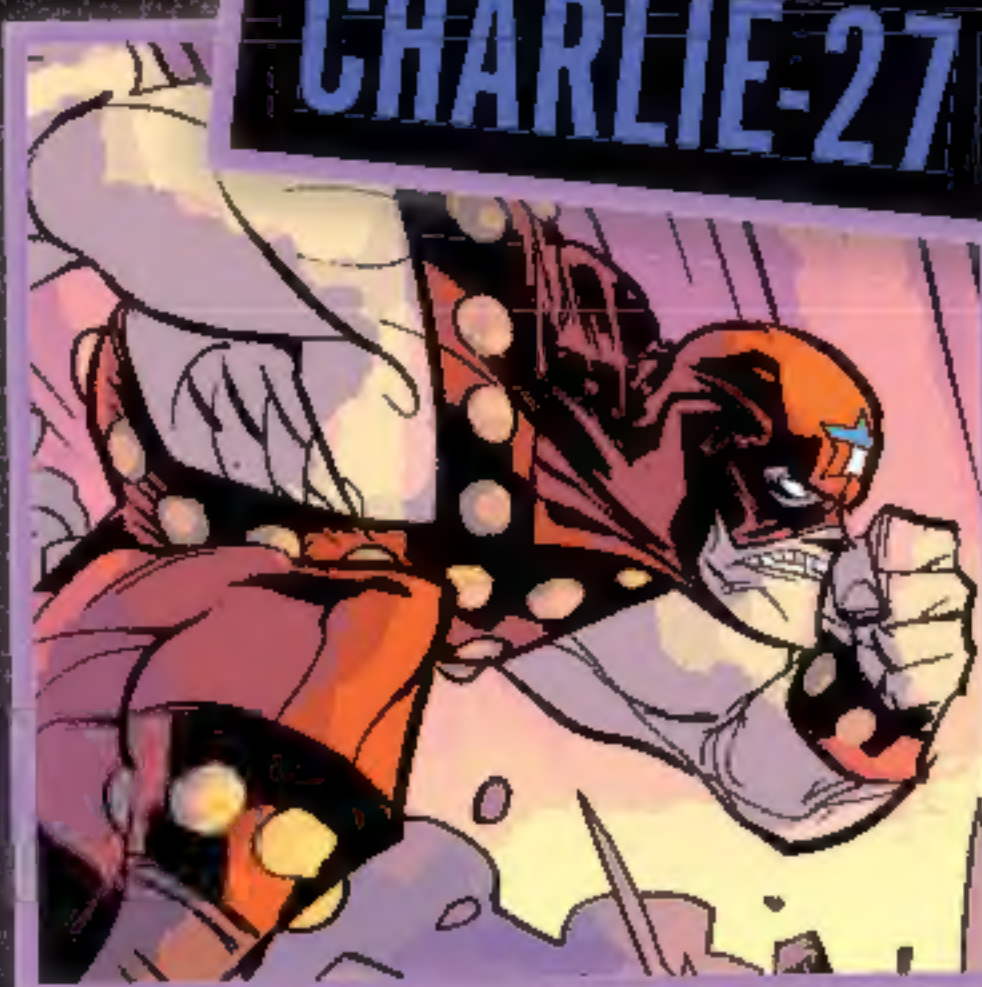
STARHAWK

(MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

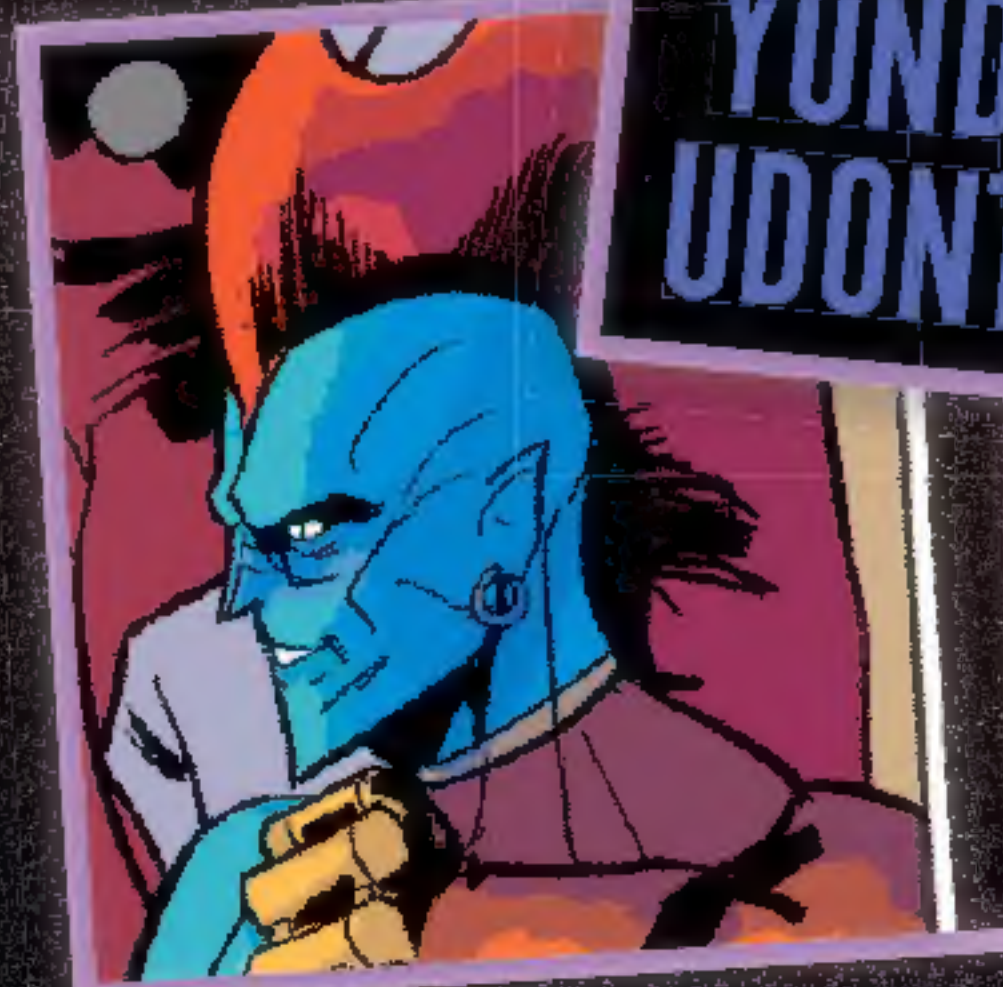


MAJOR VICTORY

(MOBILE COMMAND)



CHARLIE-27



YONDU UDONTA

MARTINEX



NICHOLETTE GOLD



GEENA DRAKE

(ASSISTANCE, MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED FOR DUTY ROTATION AS OF 06.00 AM WEDNESDAY:

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WRITER

OTTO SCHMIDT
ART

CRIS PETER
COLORS

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERS

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AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!



GARDMERCY PARK

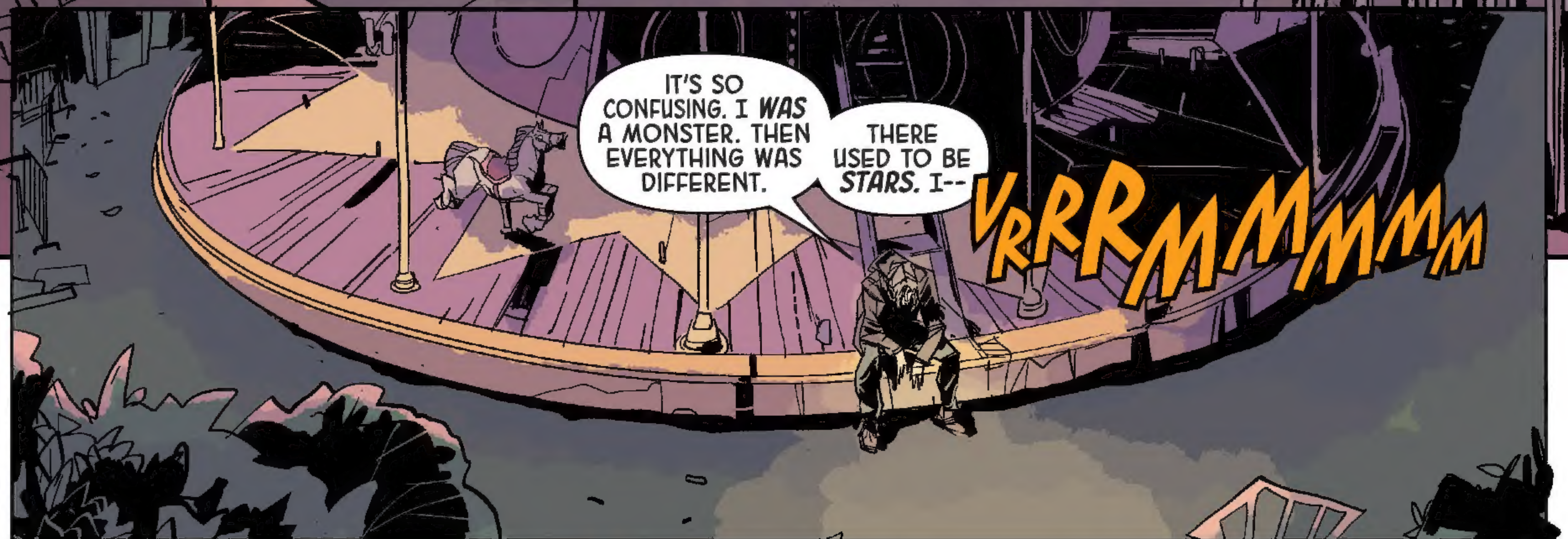
IN THE DOMAIN OF
THE FOREST HILLS,
DAWN.

I THINK I
WAS A **MONSTER**,
ONCE UPON A
TIME.

LIKE IN A
STORY. BUT IT
WASN'T A
STORY.

IT WAS **REAL**.
EXCEPT NOT REAL
THE WAY **THIS** IS REAL.
I CAN FEEL THE COLD
DAWN. THIS WOODEN
CAROUSEL.

I WISH I
UNDERSTOOD.



IT'S SO
CONFUSING. I **WAS**
A MONSTER. THEN
EVERYTHING WAS
DIFFERENT.

THERE
USED TO BE
STARS. I--

VRRRMMMMMM

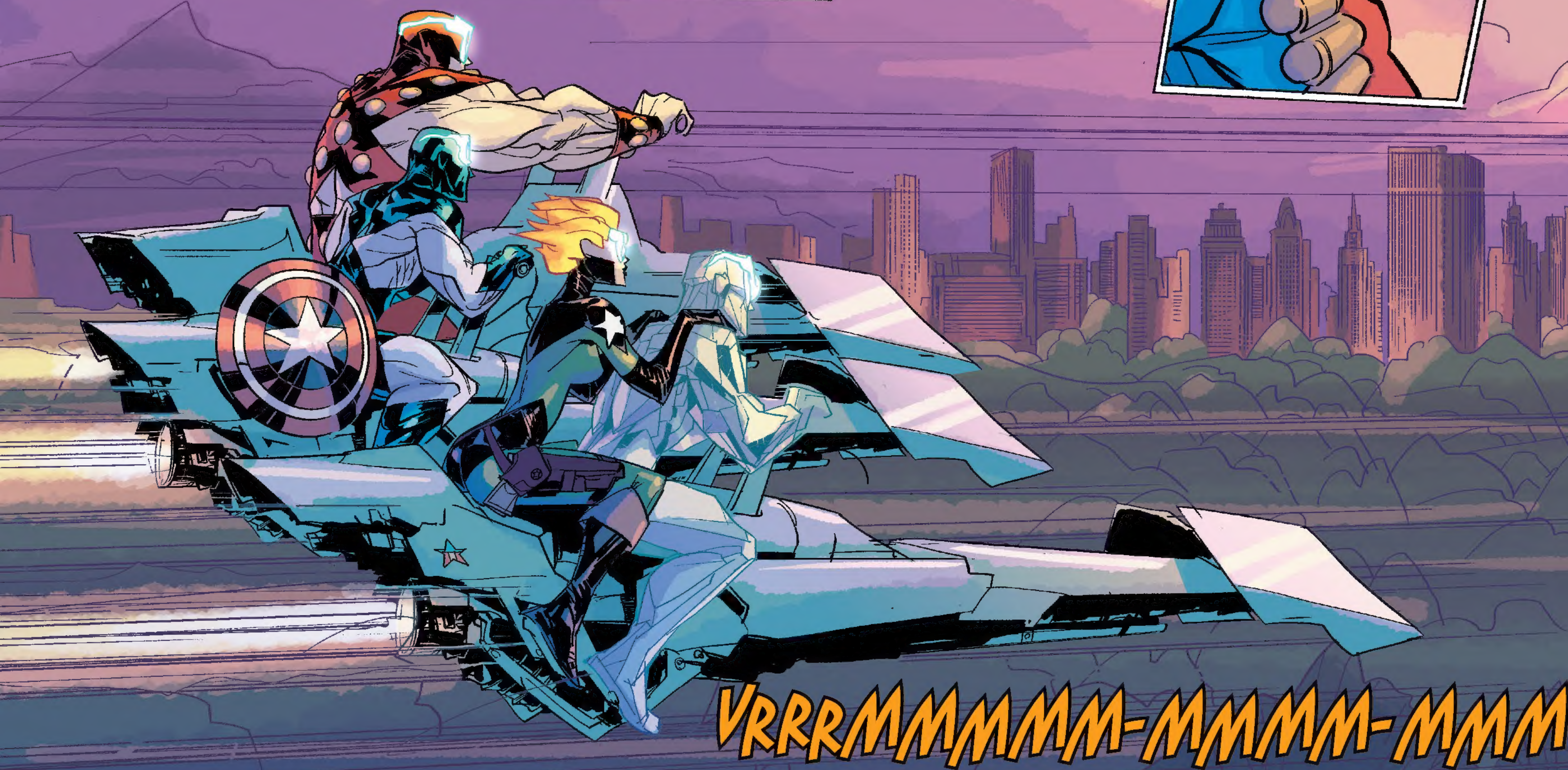


**VRRRMMMMMM-
MMMMMMM-
MMMMMM**

--OH.

HERE
THEY COME
FOR **ME**.

BECAUSE
I USED TO BE A
MONSTER, AND I'M
GOING TO BE
ONE **AGAIN**.



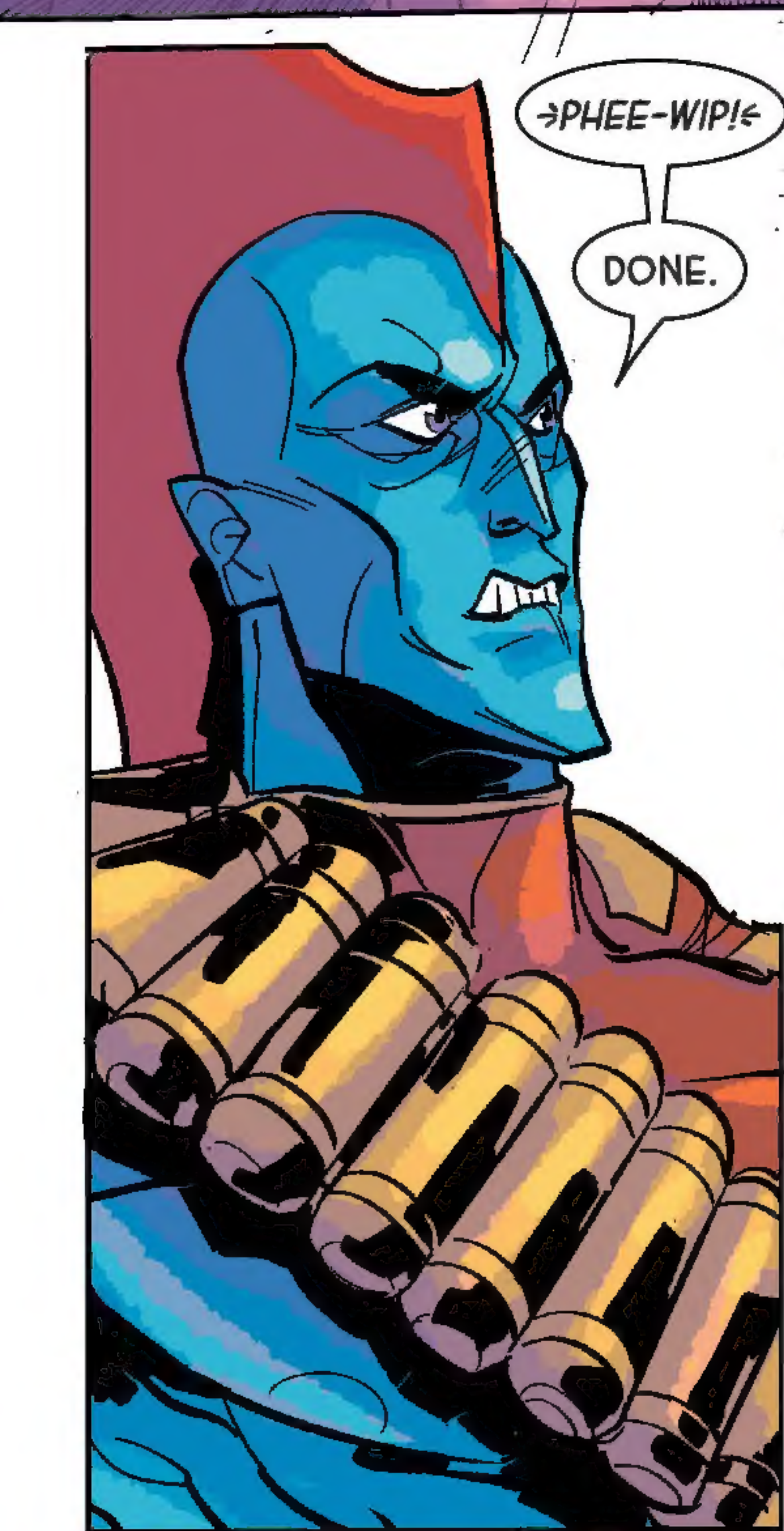


I SEE HIM. ON THE CAROUSEL.

THE SUSPECT IS TALKING TO HIMSELF. YOU CATCH WHAT HE'S SAYING, CHARLIE?

NOPE.

YONDU? AMP THE ARROW'S AUDIO.



→PHEE-WIP!←

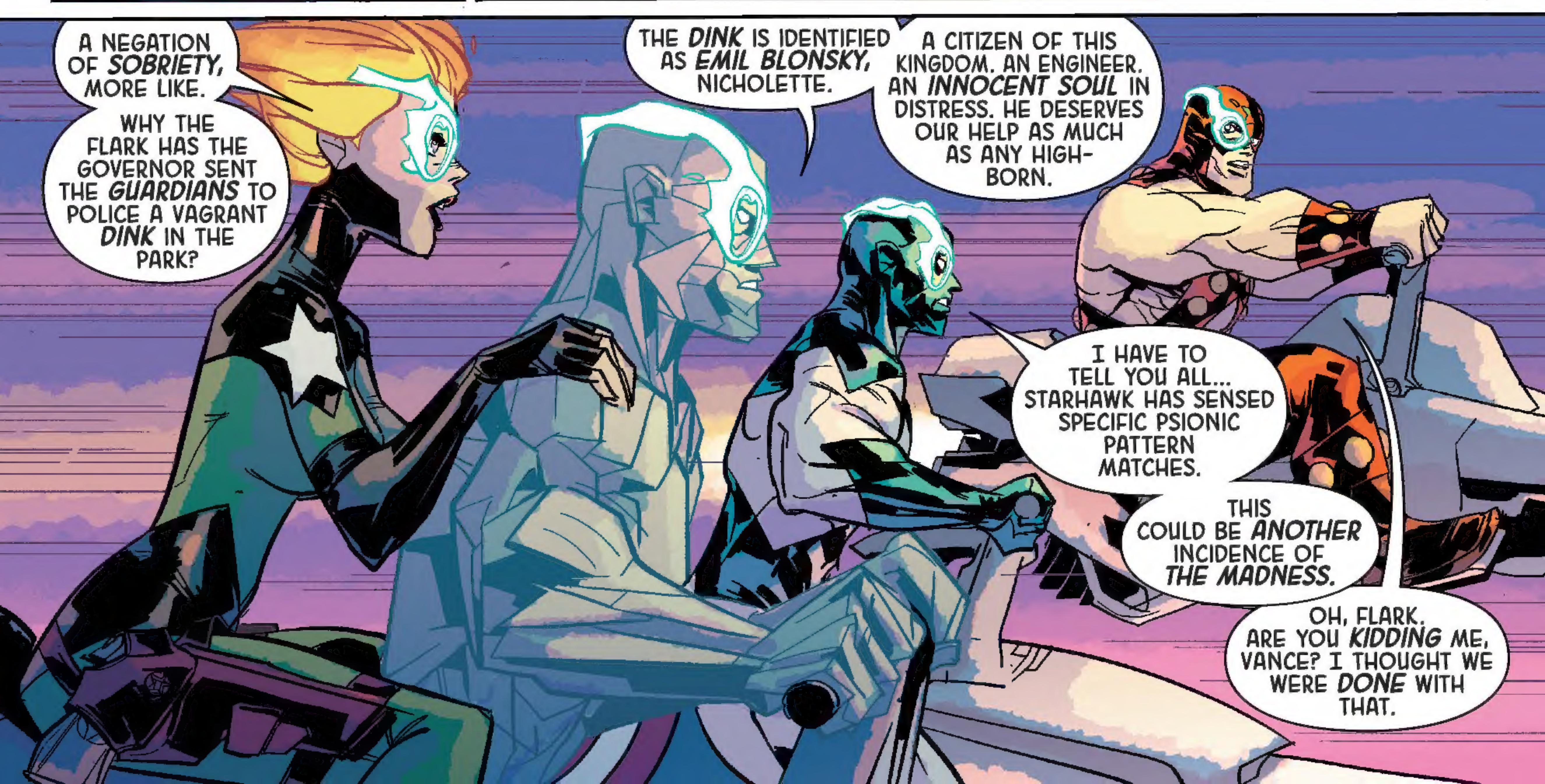
DONE.



...SHOULD BE STARS. I MEAN, THERE SHOULD BE *STARS*.

WHEN THEY COME FOR ME, I WILL ASK...WHERE ARE THE STARS? THE *GALAXIES* THAT WERE IN THE SKY?

COSMIC HEARTBREAK. A NEGATION OF *WORLDS*...



A NEGATION OF *SOBRIETY*, MORE LIKE.

WHY THE FLARK HAS THE GOVERNOR SENT THE *GUARDIANS* TO POLICE A VAGRANT *DINK* IN THE PARK?

THE *DINK* IS IDENTIFIED AS *EMIL BLONSKY*, NICHOLETTE.

A CITIZEN OF THIS KINGDOM. AN ENGINEER. AN *INNOCENT SOUL* IN DISTRESS. HE DESERVES OUR HELP AS MUCH AS ANY HIGH-BORN.

I HAVE TO TELL YOU ALL... STARHAWK HAS SENSED SPECIFIC PSIONIC PATTERN MATCHES.

THIS COULD BE *ANOTHER* INCIDENT OF THE *MADNESS*.

OH, FLARK. ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME, VANCE? I THOUGHT WE WERE *DONE* WITH THAT.



IF THIS IS THE MADNESS AGAIN, LET ME TAKE A HEADSHOT AND--

YOU WILL NOT FIRE WITHOUT MY INSTRUCTION, GOLD.

EMIL? MR. BLONSKY?

LET US HELP YOU. WE ARE THE GUARDIANS.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. I KNOW EVERYTHING.

THE TRUTH HURTS. WHY ARE THERE NO STARS, MAJOR VICTORY?



STARS?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.

SYMBOLS. THEY HAVE FIVE POINTS. LIKE ON THE MAJOR'S SHIELD.

YOU POOR FOOLS. SYMBOLS FOR WHAT?

JUST... SYMBOLS.



EVERYTHING THAT WAS BEFORE IS GONE.

SO COMPLETELY GONE, AND NO ONE NOTICES.

ALL IS LOST. ALL IS DOOM.



EMIL, WE NEED YOU TO COME WITH US. WE WANT TO HELP YOU. WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE THIS TRUTH OF YOURS COMES FROM.

I DREAMED IT AND THEN IT WAS TRUE.

THANK YOU FOR CALLING IT TRUTH, THOUGH. I KNOW YOU WANT TO CALL IT HERESY.

I-- UHK



MR. BLONSKY?

UHK. GGH. GHHBBNNG.

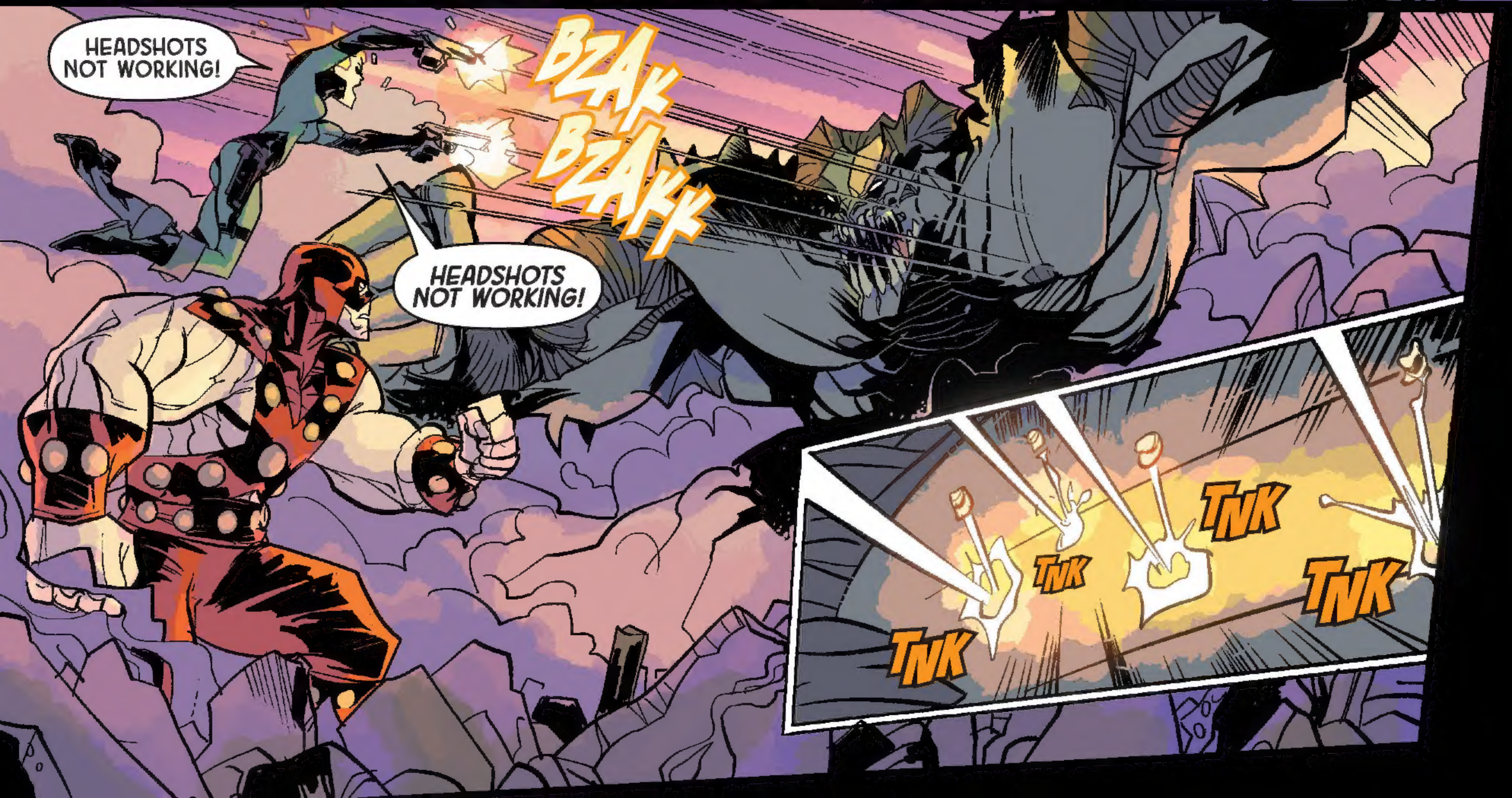
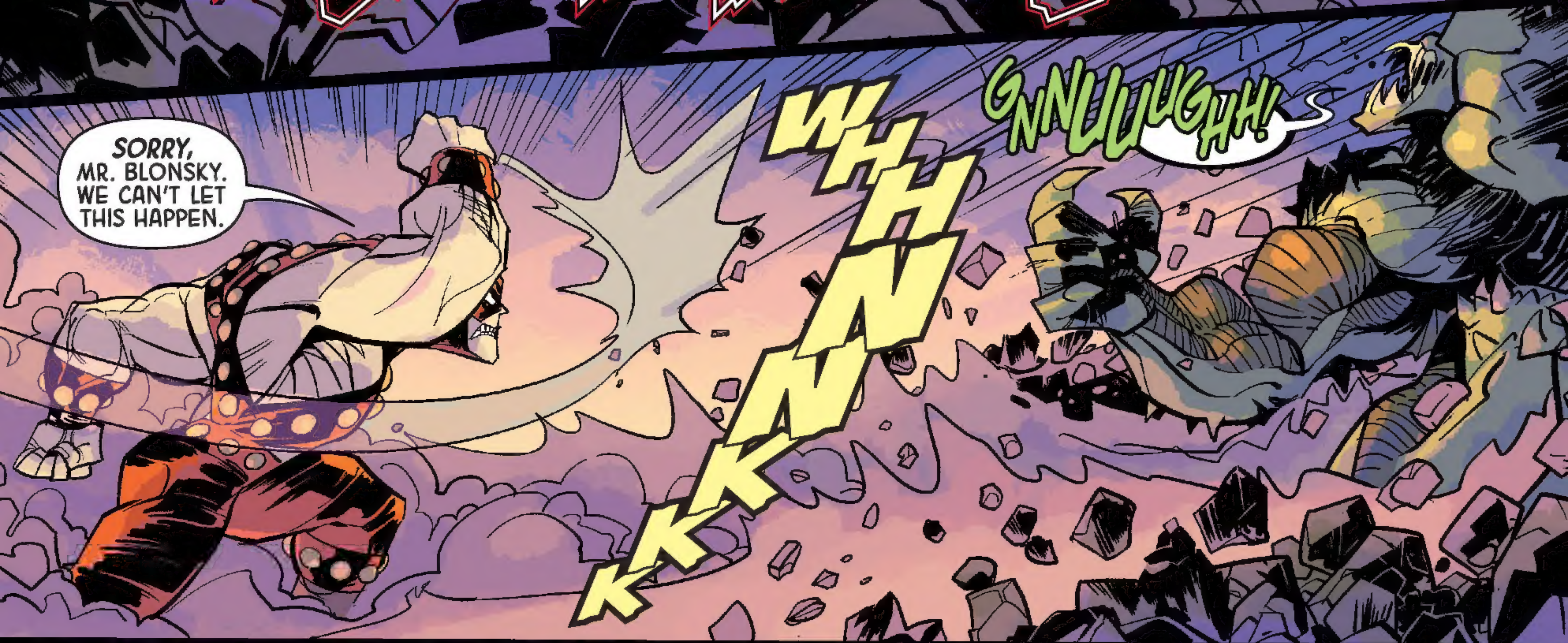
HE'S ESCALATING! LIKE THE LAST ONE!

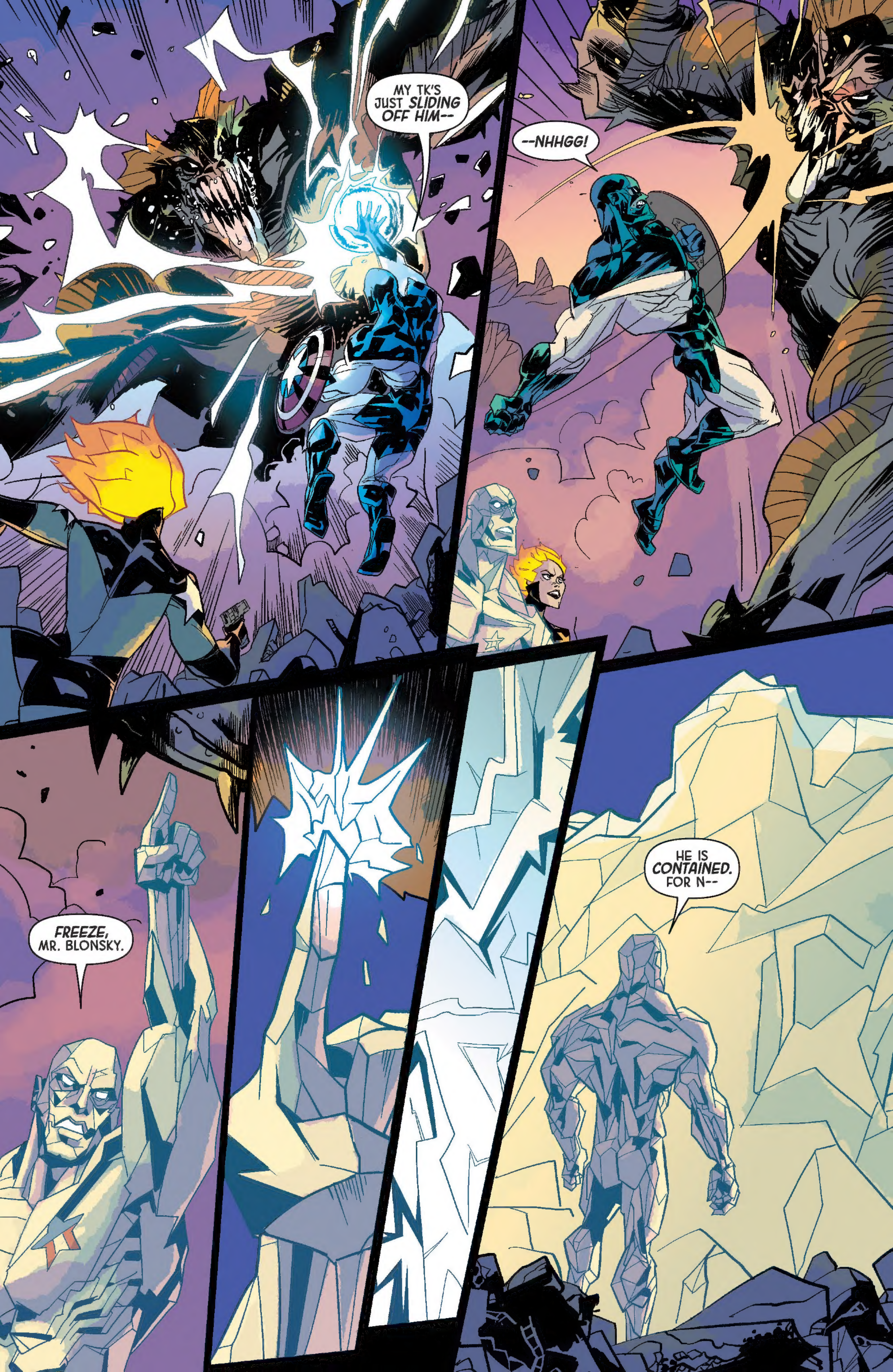
NOW CAN I SHOOT HIM?

NGRRUUUUGH!!

→UGH!!←

HOLY
FLARK! GUARDIANS,
MOVE!





MY TK'S
JUST SLIDING
OFF HIM--

--NHHGG!

FREEZE,
MR. BLONSKY.

HE IS
CONTAINED.
FOR N--



KRRRK-
TTKTKT-
KKTT

GRRUURGH!

KRRRK-KKISSHHH

YONDU!
WE'RE
OUT OF OPTIONS!
SANCTION IT!

GREAT GOD
DOOM, FORGIVE
ME.

→PHIP-PHIP!←

SHHHW
W
K

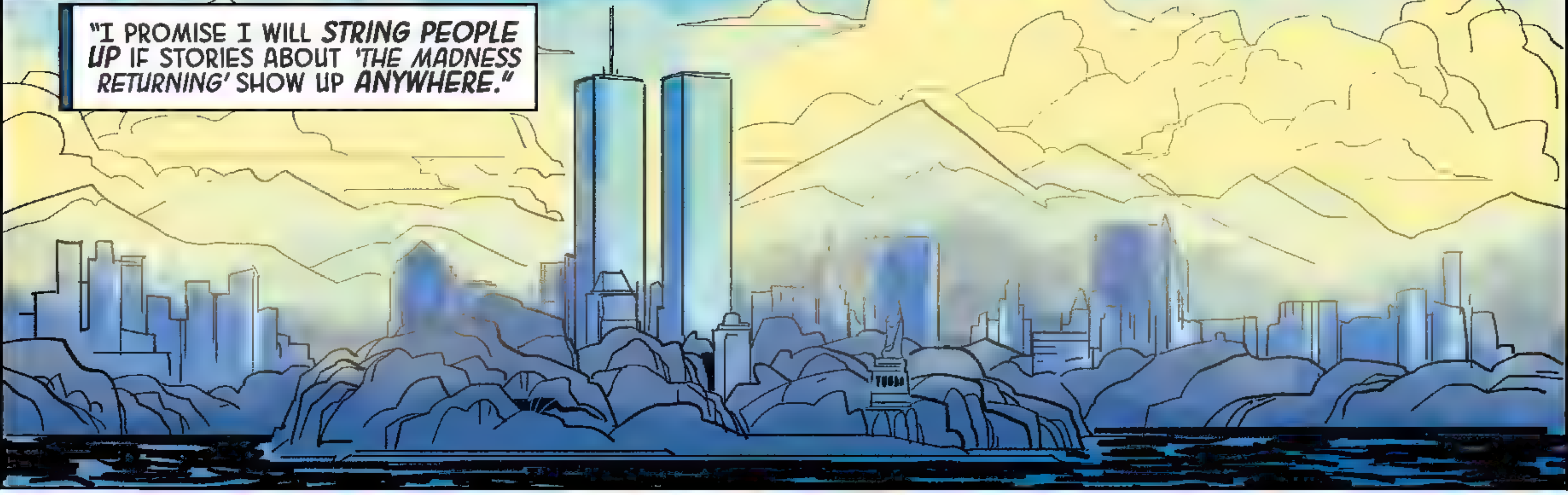


AH, DAMN IT.

AN EYE SEEMED THE ONLY **VULNERABLE** POINT, MAJOR. I--

I KNOW.

GUARDIANS? SET UP A CORDON AND KEEP THE PUBLIC BACK. AND THE PRESS MOST OF ALL.

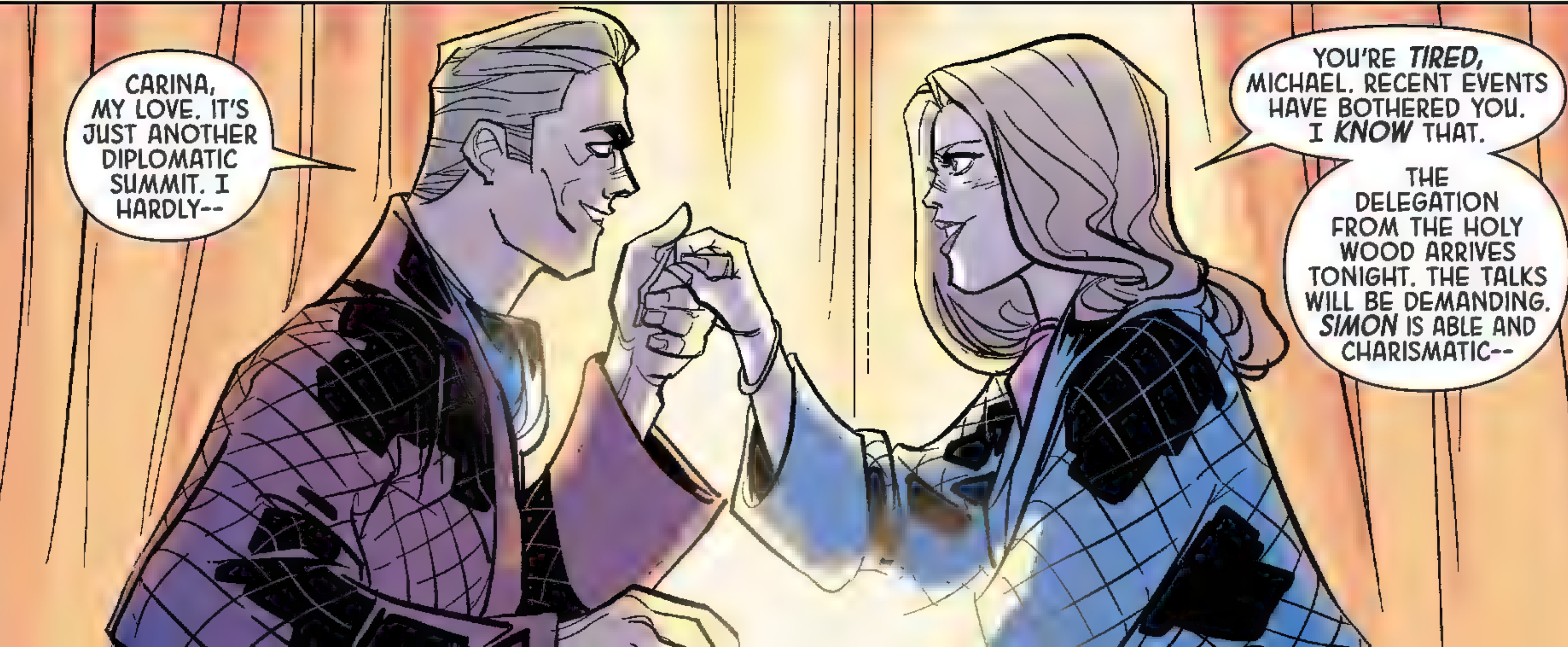


"I PROMISE I WILL **STRING PEOPLE UP** IF STORIES ABOUT 'THE MADNESS RETURNING' SHOW UP ANYWHERE."



THE MANSION,
STATE RESIDENCE OF THE BARON.

SO YOU FEEL YOU'RE READY?
MENTALLY?



CARINA, MY LOVE. IT'S JUST ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC SUMMIT. I HARDLY--

YOU'RE **TIRED**, MICHAEL. RECENT EVENTS HAVE BOTHERED YOU. I **KNOW** THAT.

THE DELEGATION FROM THE HOLY WOOD ARRIVES TONIGHT. THE TALKS WILL BE DEMANDING. **SIMON** IS ABLE AND CHARISMATIC--



OH, "SIMON" NOW, IS IT?

BARON WILLIAMS IS CHARISMATIC, AND YOU KNOW HE IS AMBITIOUS. HIS DREAM IS GOVERNANCE OF THE HOLY WOOD AND THE FOREST HILLS. HE--

WILLIAMS WILL NOT USURP MY RULE. HE CAN POWER-PLAY ALL HE LIKES, BUT I AM MICHAEL KORVAC.



MICHAEL KORVAC. MY HUSBAND. LORD OF THE KINGDOM.

BY THE GRACE OF DOOM.

MY LORD, MICHAEL. FORGIVE THE INTRUSION.



VANCE! WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

SHOULD I WORRY THAT OUR MIGHTY NEIGHBOR THE WONDER MAN MIGHT ECLIPSE ME IN THE PUBLIC'S FAVOR WITH HIS CHARM AND GOOD LOOKS?

THE FIRST LADY CERTAINLY SEEMS QUITE SMITTEN BY HIS--

IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN, SIR.



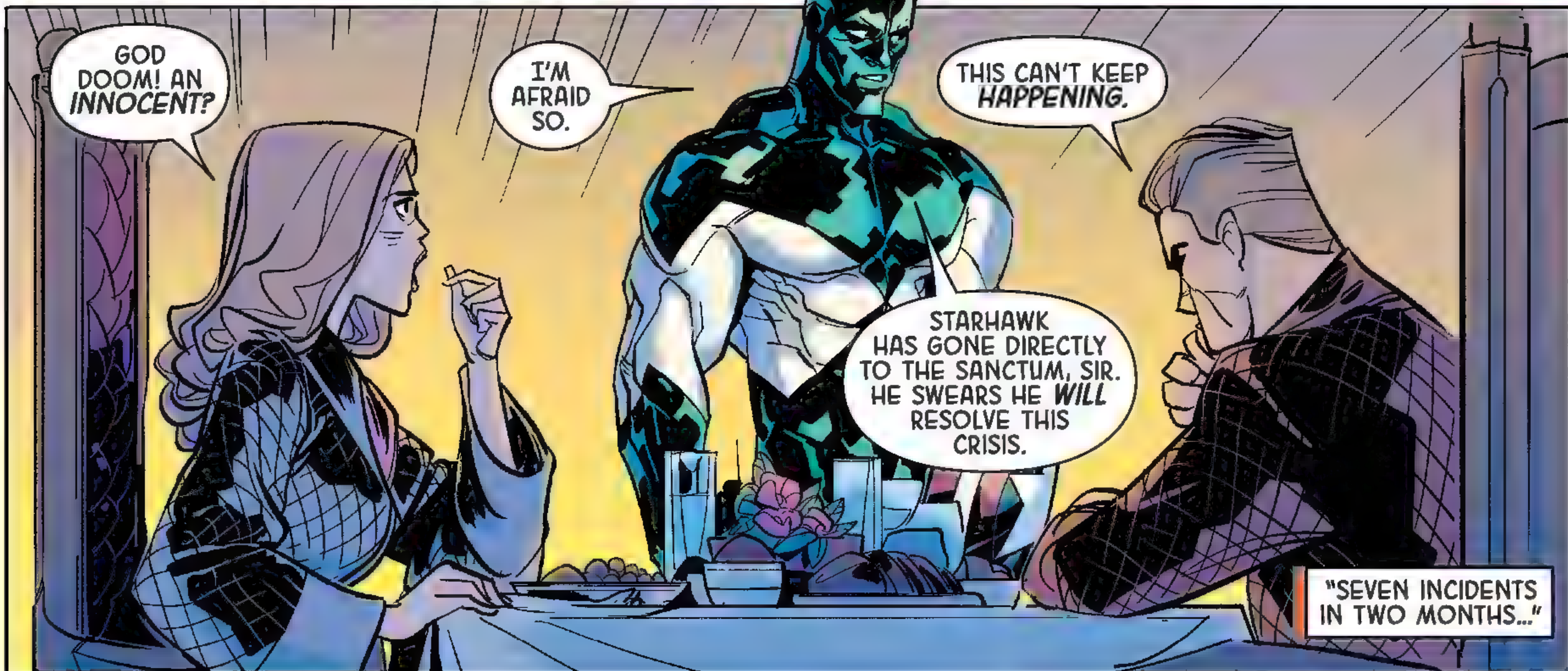
DOOM PRESERVE US.

WHERE?

GARDMERCY PARK.

IS IT ANOTHER INCIDENCE OF THE MADNESS?

WE THINK SO. WE WERE... FORCED TO SANCTION.



GOD DOOM! AN INNOCENT?

I'M AFRAID SO.

THIS CAN'T KEEP HAPPENING.

STARHAWK HAS GONE DIRECTLY TO THE SANCTUM, SIR. HE SWEARS HE WILL RESOLVE THIS CRISIS.

"SEVEN INCIDENTS IN TWO MONTHS..."

THE MANSION'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM.

IN EACH
CASE, AN ORDINARY
CITIZEN COMPLAINS
OF SLEEP
DISTURBANCE.

THEY RAVE
ABOUT *STARS*,
ABOUT A *CHANGED*
CONDITION OF
REALITY.

THEIR
PERCEPTION OF THE
WORLD BECOMES
DERANGED.



BECAUSE
YOU ARE THE ONE
WHO *KNOWS*.

AND I AM
THE ONE WHO
LEARNS, STARHAWK.
YOU SELECTED ME,
MADE ME YOUR
PUPIL.

TEACH ME
TO ASSESS THINGS
AS YOU DO. SHOW
ME *HOW* TO
KNOW.





AND IT'S **EMBARRASSING** TO HAVE THIS PROBLEM DURING THE STATE VISIT.

SIMON WILLIAMS WILL MAKE **GREAT** POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF THE IDEA THAT THE **BARON** CAN'T PROTECT THE KINGDOM.

HE **WILL**, BUT IT'S **MORE** THAN JUST EMBARRASSING.

WHAT DO THE GUARDIANS **GUARD**, GEENA DRAKE?



OUR LORD MICHAEL KORVAC AND THE SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM.

NO, WHAT DO THEY **GUARD** AGAINST?



SCHISM.

YOU THINK THIS IS THE CRIME OF **SCHISM**?

I THINK SOMEONE OR **SOMETHING** IS CAUSING INNOCENTS TO **COMMIT** THAT CRIME.

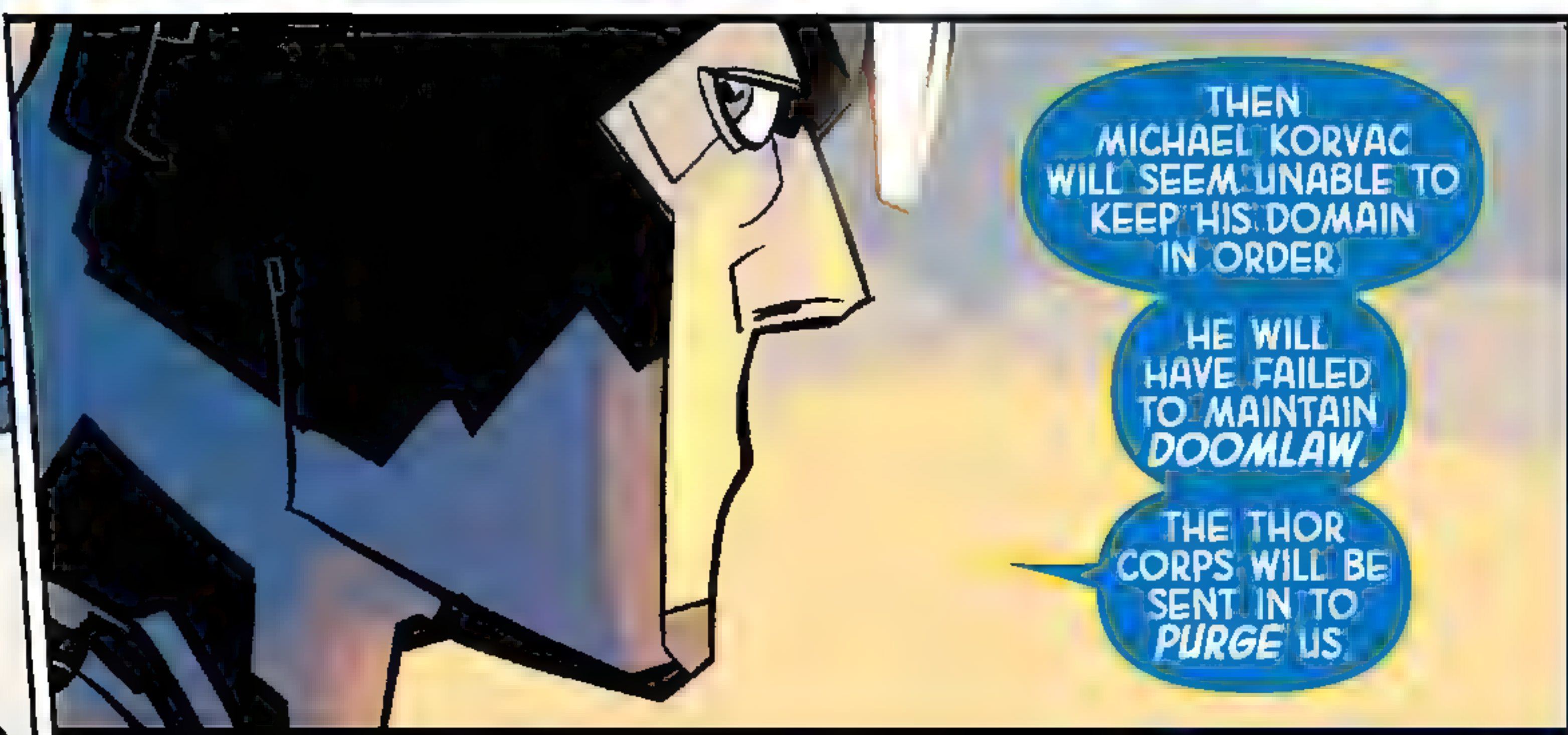
WE GUARD AGAINST THE **ENEMIES** OF THE DOMAIN, GEENA, AND THE **GREATEST** ENEMY IS **HERESY** AGAINST THE TRUTH OF DOOM.



WE MUST LOCATE THE **SOURCE** OF THIS INFECTION AND CURE IT.

IT IS **OUR** ENEMY NOW.

AND IF WE DON'T?



THEN MICHAEL KORVAC WILL SEEM UNABLE TO KEEP HIS DOMAIN IN ORDER.

HE WILL HAVE FAILED TO MAINTAIN **DOOMLAW**.

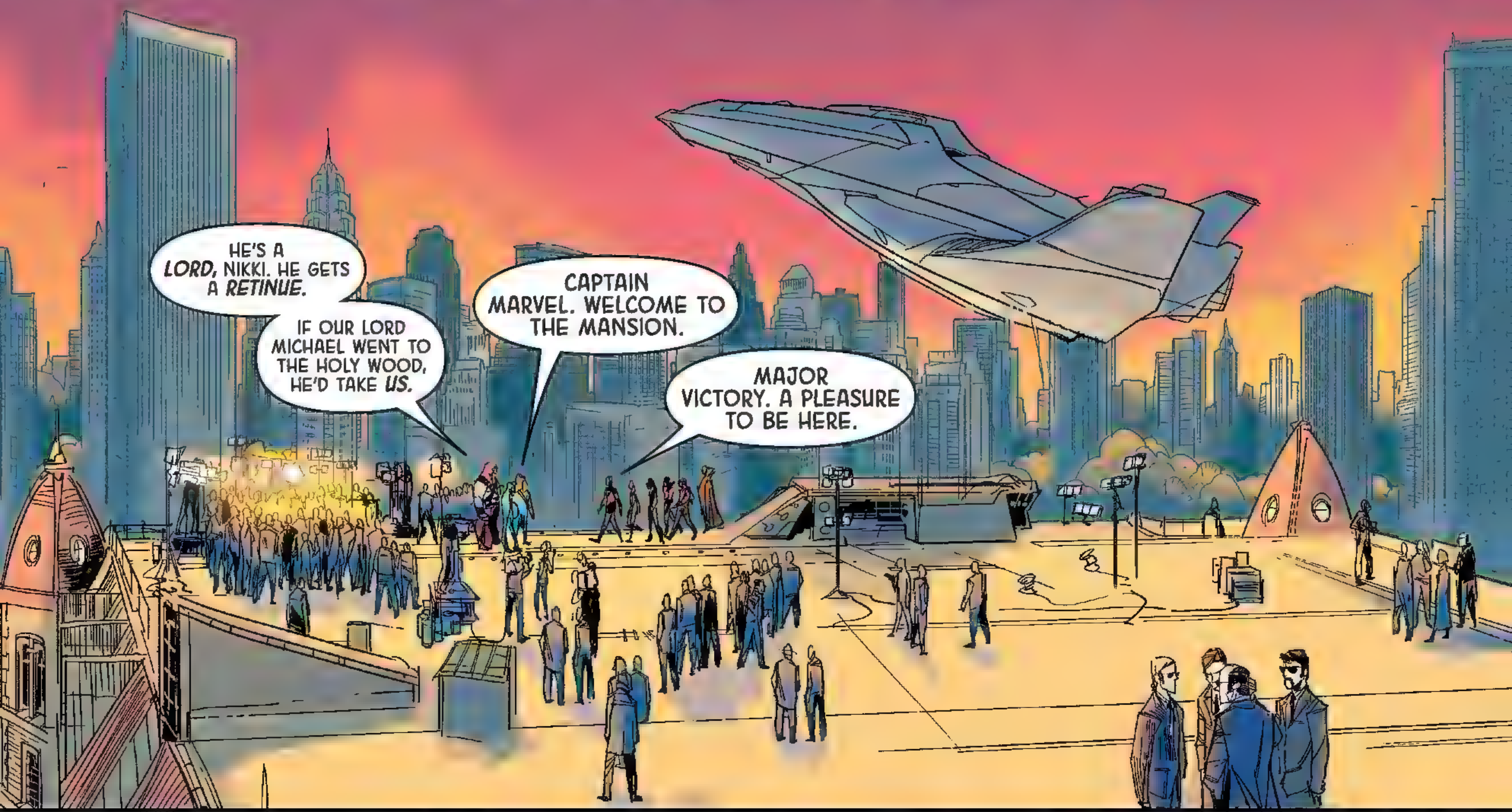
THE THOR CORPS WILL BE SENT IN TO **PURGE** US.

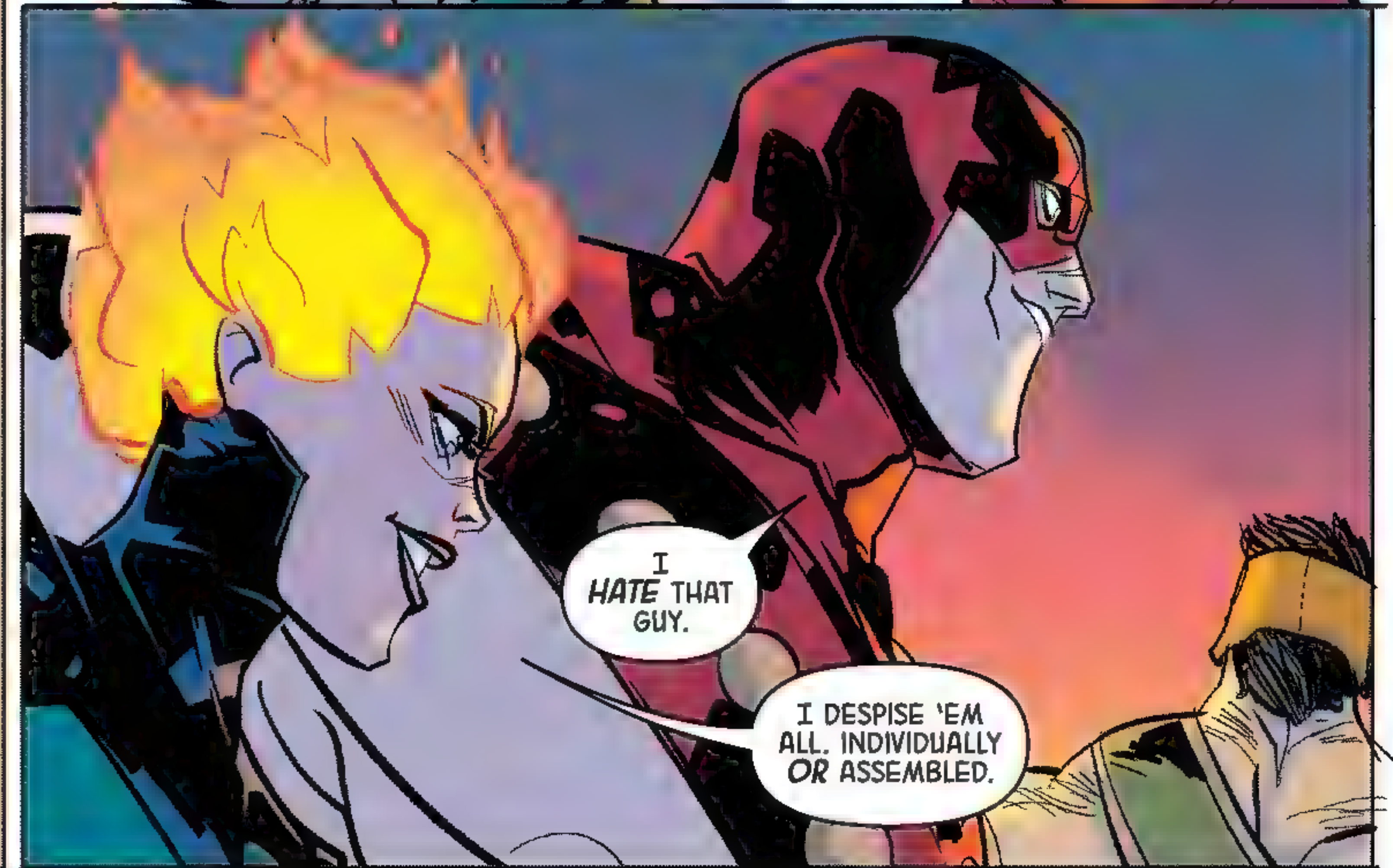
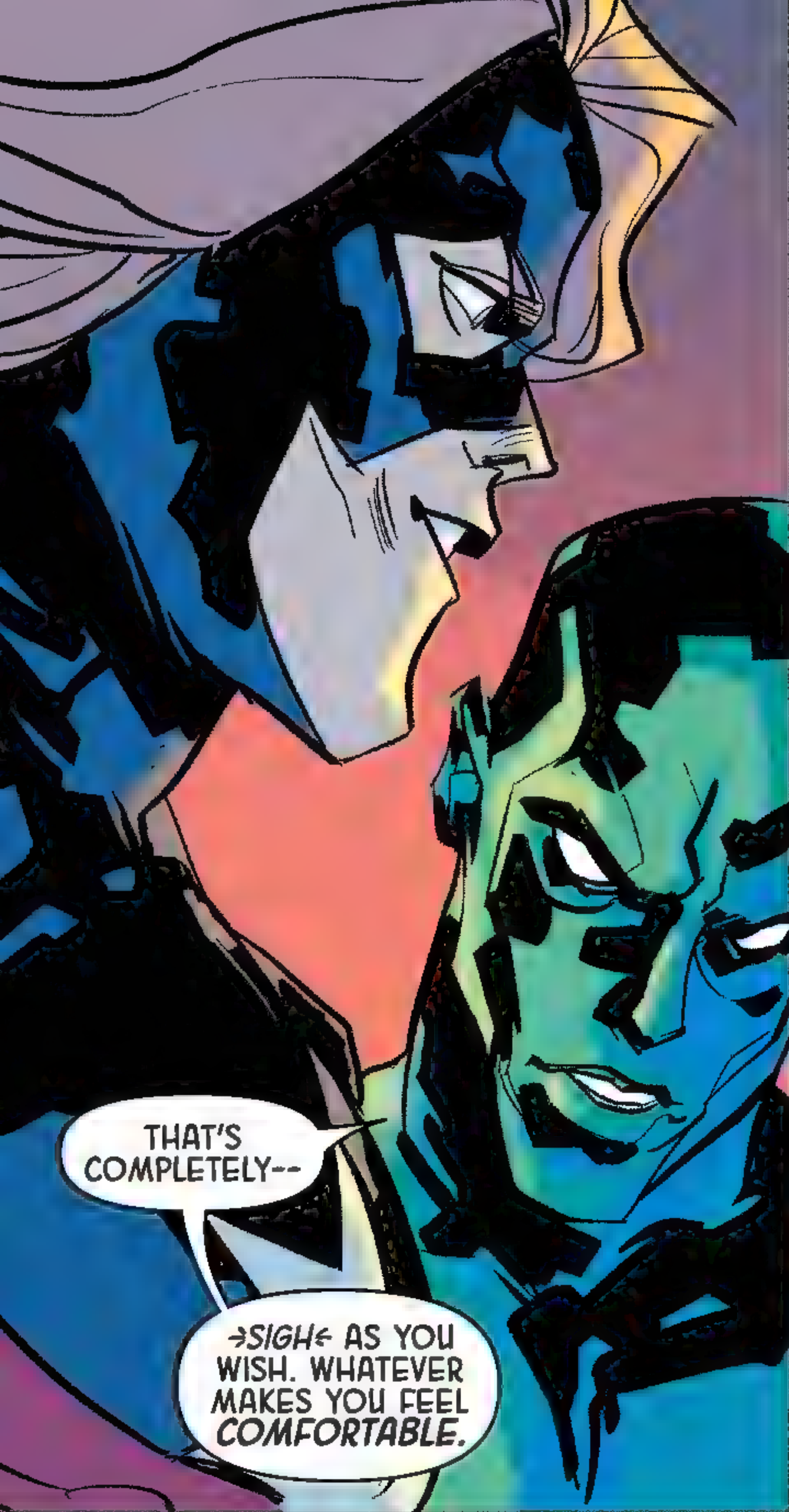
"THIS MUST BE KEPT QUIET, GEENA.
WE ARE FIGHTING A SECRET WAR."

AVENGERS?

ASSEMBLE!

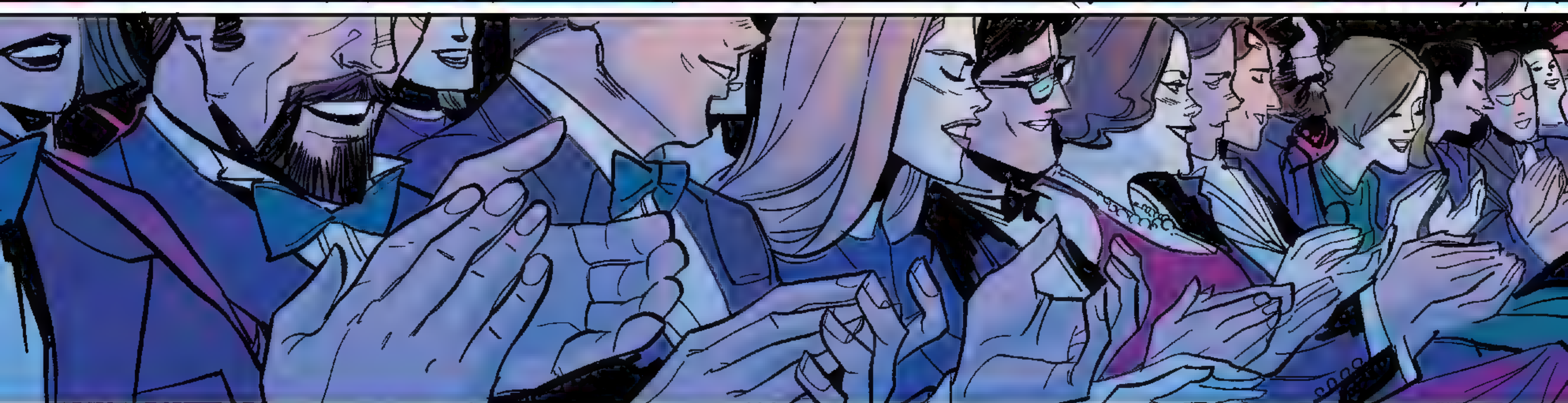






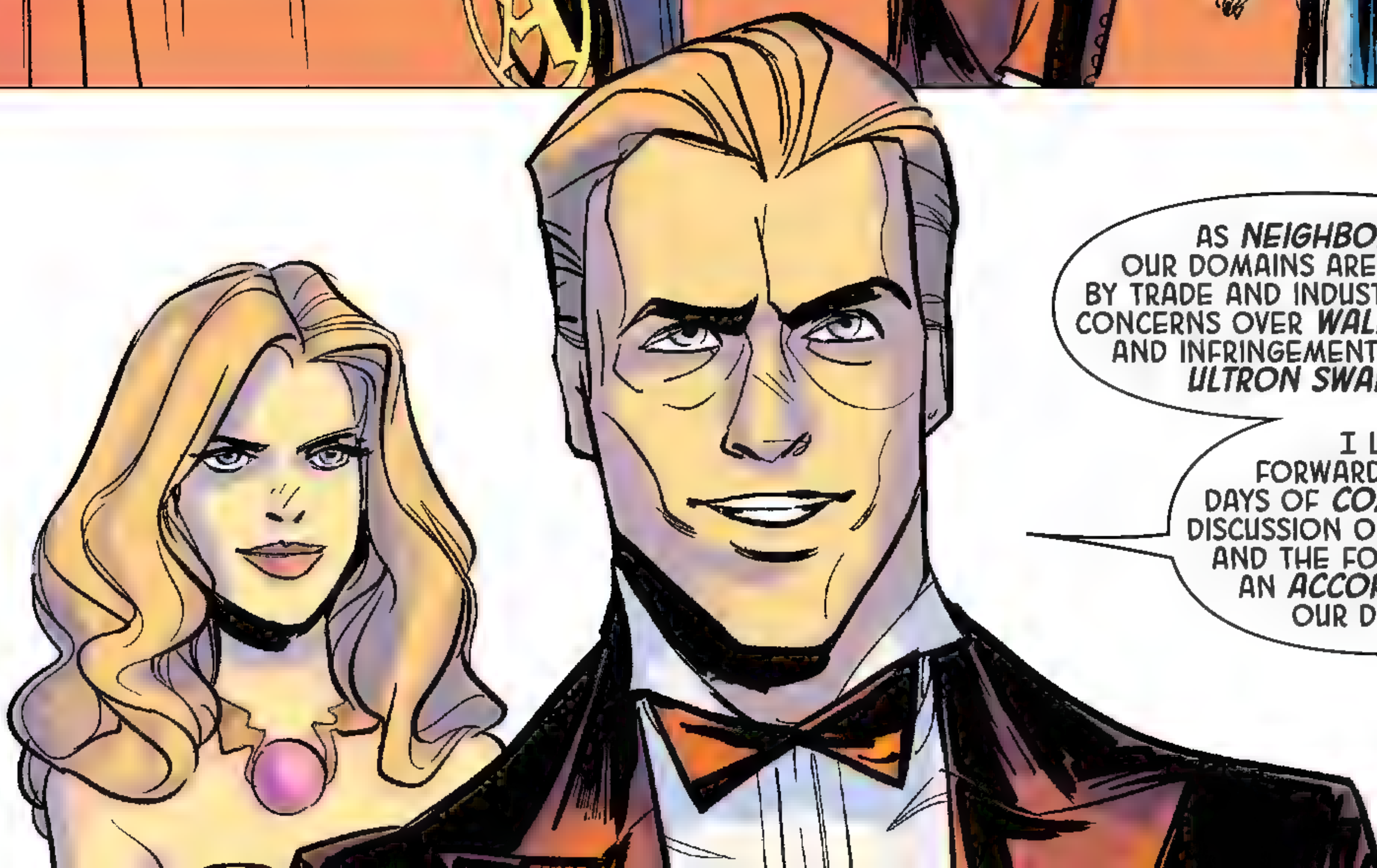


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY HUSBAND, THE BARON OF THE FOREST HILLS, **MICHAEL KORVAC!**



THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

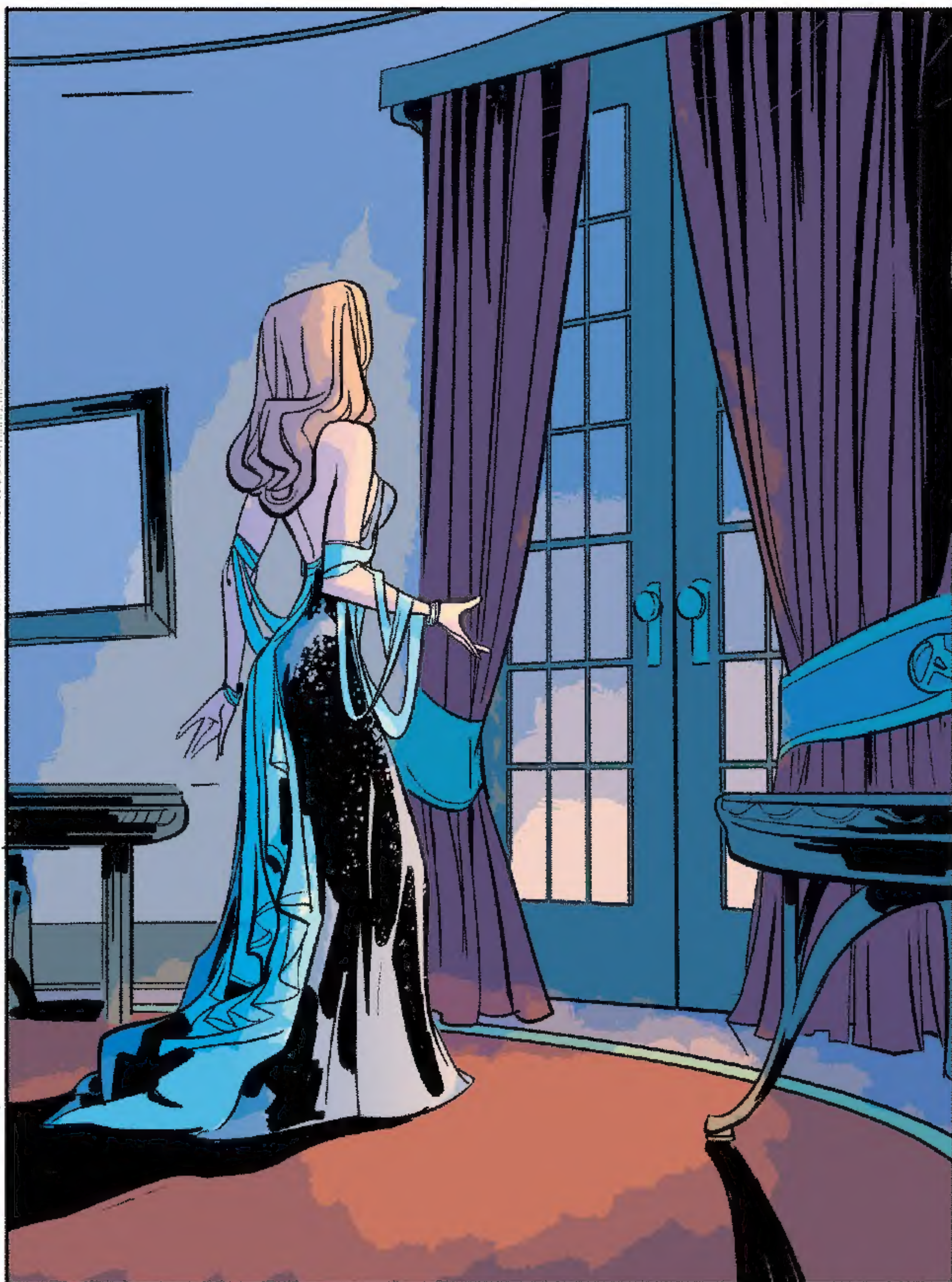
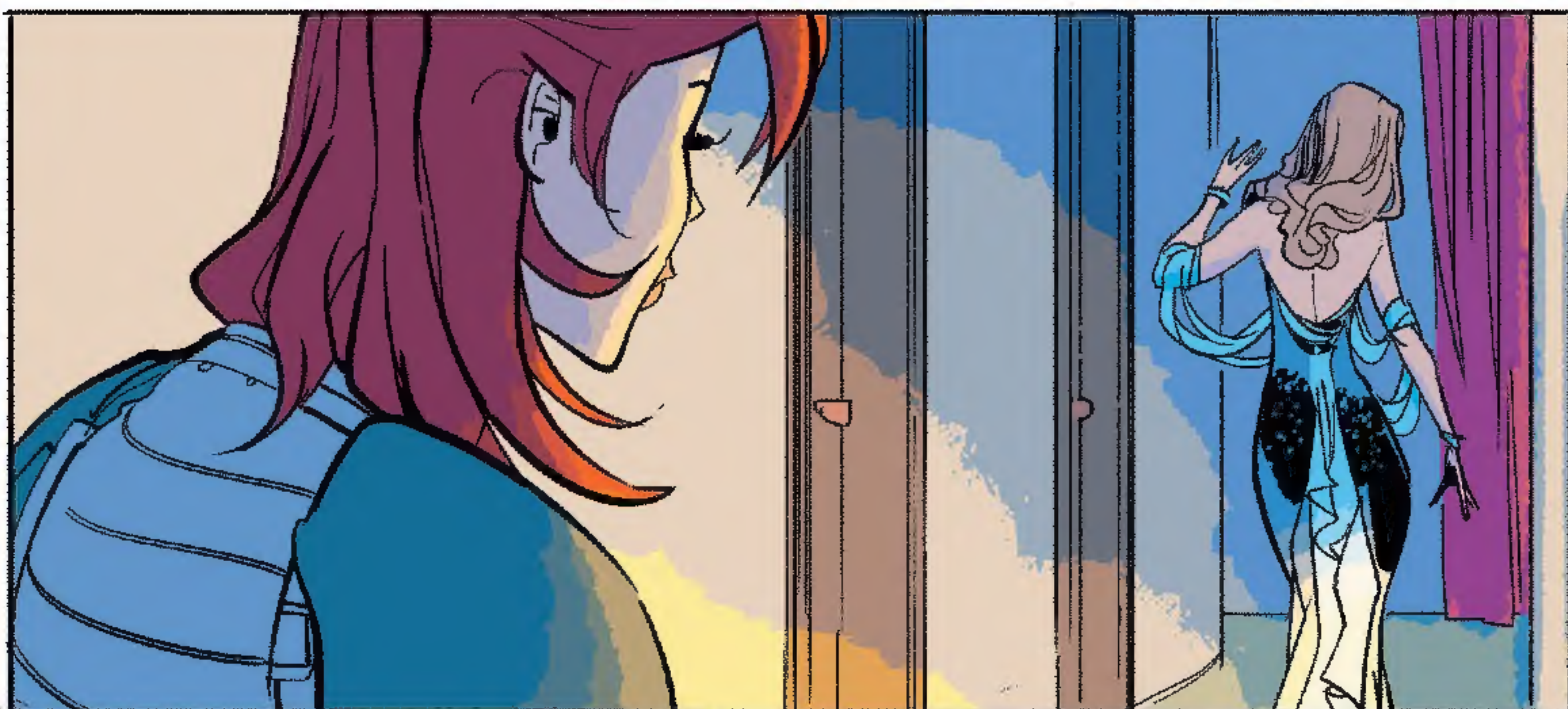
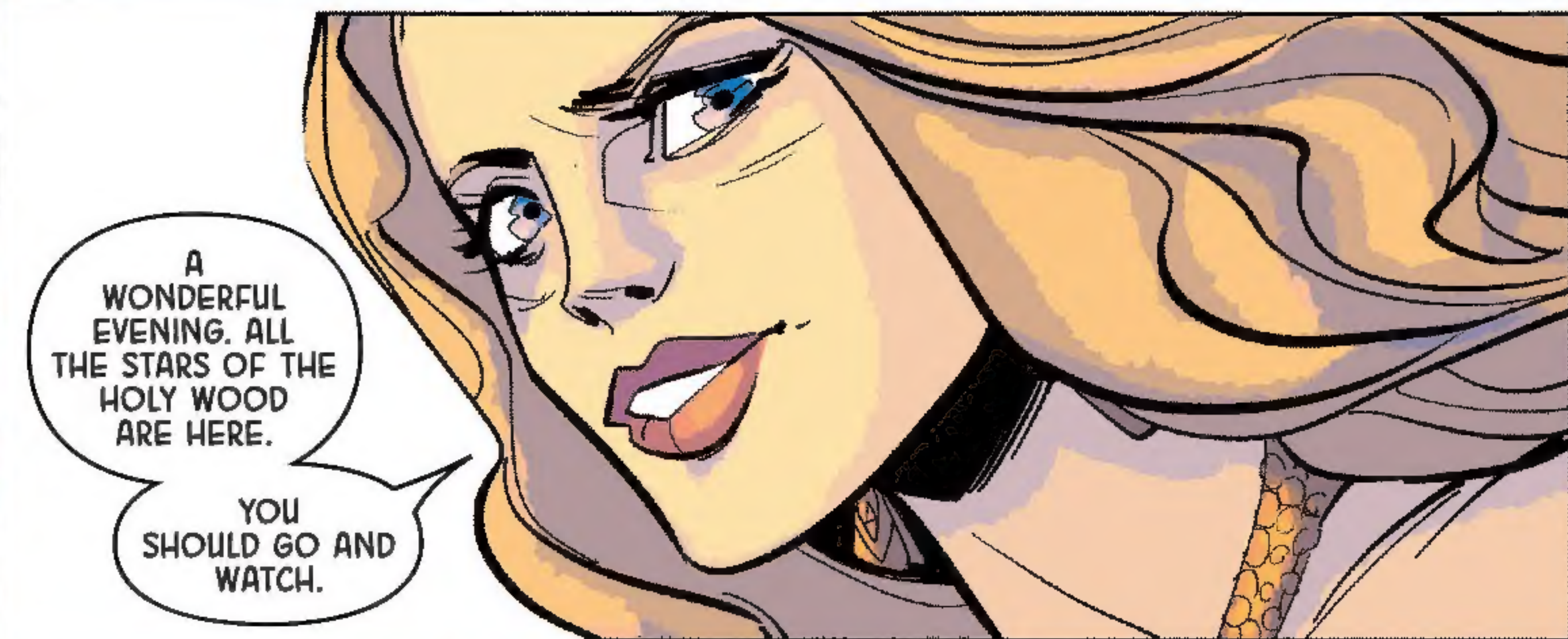
IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME THE BARON OF THE HOLY WOOD TO OUR DOMAIN.



AS NEIGHBORS, OUR DOMAINS ARE **UNITED** BY TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND IN CONCERNS OVER **WALL SECURITY** AND INFRINGEMENTS BY THE **ULTRON SWARM**.

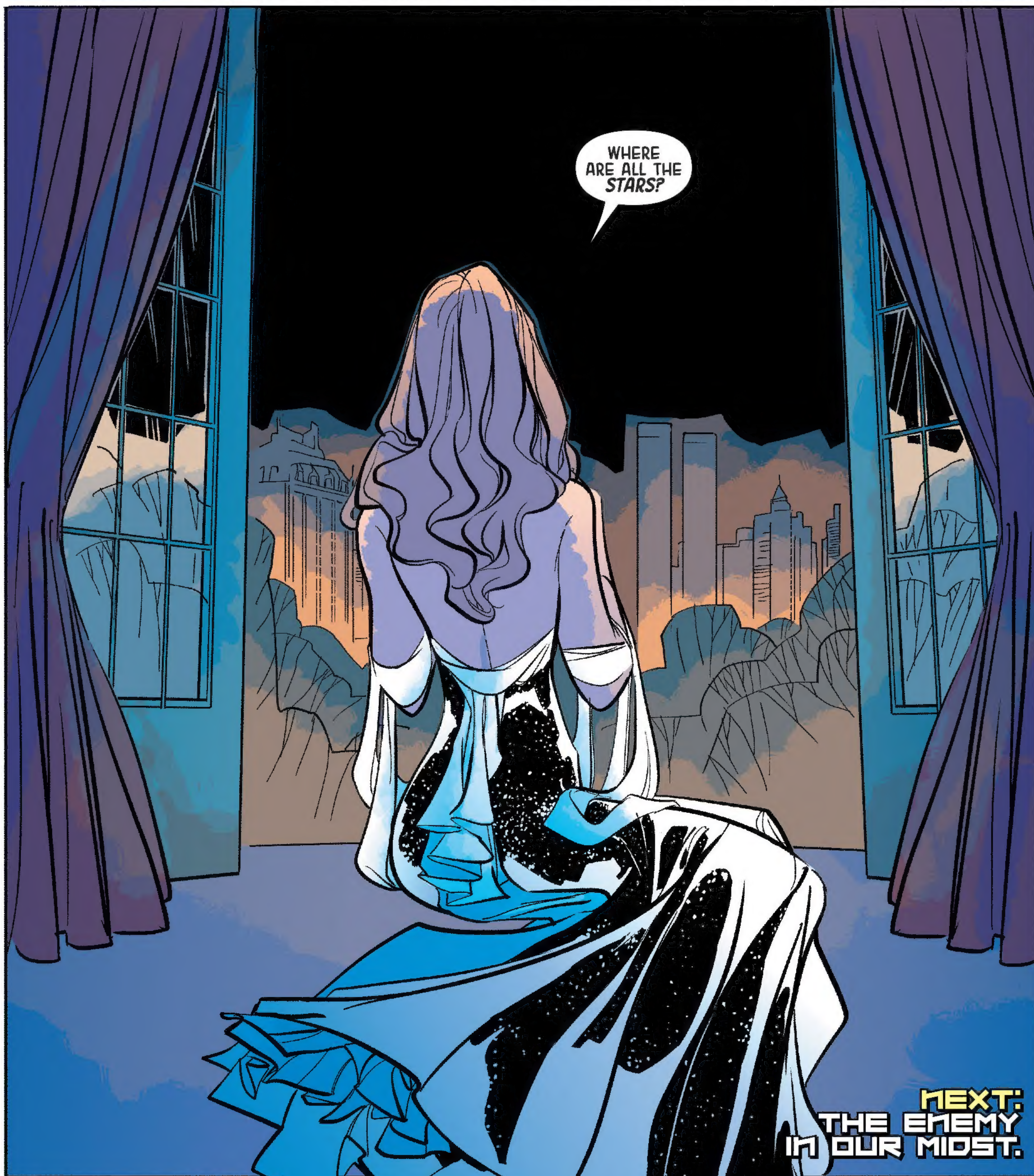
I LOOK FORWARD TO THREE DAYS OF **COMPREHENSIVE** DISCUSSION ON THESE ISSUES, AND THE FORMALIZING OF AN **ACCORD** BETWEEN OUR DOMAINS.







W-WHERE
ARE THE
STARS?



WHERE
ARE ALL THE
STARS?

NEXT:
THE ENEMY
IN OUR MIDST.

